

State of California
Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego Region

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
November 9, 2005

ITEM: 5

SUBJECT: Update of Waste Discharge Requirements: Skyline Ranch Country Club Wastewater Treatment Plant, Valley Center, San Diego County (tentative Order No. R9-2005-0258). (*Victor Vasquez*)

PURPOSE: To adopt updated waste discharge requirements for the discharge via spray irrigation of up to 30,000 gallons per day of treated wastewater from the Skyline Ranch County Club wastewater treatment plant in Valley Center.

PUBLIC NOTICE: The November 9, 2005 Regional Board meeting agenda notice that was mailed on October 21, 2005 served as the required official public notification for this action. Tentative drafts of the Order, including the draft monitoring and reporting program (M&RP), were mailed on October 14, 2005 to the discharger and all known interested parties and agencies for review and comment. Copies of the tentative Order and M&RP were made available for public review at the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board office on October 14, 2005. The tentative Order was also posted on the Regional Board's website on October 18, 2005.

DISCUSSION: Skyline Ranch Country Club (SRCC) is a privately-owned facility consisting of 220 mobile home units and a golf course near Valley Center. The SRCC LLC owns SRCC and leases spaces to residents for mobile home units. The SRCC wastewater treatment plant treats wastewater generated from SRCC which is then disposed of via spray irrigation to a 15-acre disposal field located within the Pauma Hydrologic Subarea (HSA 903.22) of the Monserate Hydrologic Subunit of the San Luis Rey Hydrologic Unit. During wet-weather periods when spray irrigation is reduced or cannot be conducted, treated effluent may be stored in unlined storage ponds with 84 days of seasonal storage capacity.

This Regional Board has had a long-standing policy which required community sewerage facilities (i.e., facilities serving two or more separately-owned properties) to be owned and operated by a public entity; this policy has since been incorporated into the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (Basin Plan). The SRCC wastewater treatment and disposal facilities were deeded by the

owners of SRCC to Valley Center Municipal Water District (VCMWD) in the early 1970's in order to obtain waste discharge requirements (WDRs) contained in Order No. 72-13, the first discharge permit issued by the Regional Board for the discharge from SRCC. Subsequent reissuances of the WDRs for SRCC were also issued to VCMWD including the existing WDRs, Order No. 93-29.

In September 2004, the SRCC LLC provided information to the Regional Board which reported that the SRCC wastewater treatment and disposal facilities do not constitute community sewerage facilities because SRCC is a single property served by the SRCC wastewater treatment facilities and SRCC LLC is an individual property owner. In December 2004, SRCC LLC submitted a report requesting that the WDRs for the SRCC wastewater treatment and disposal facilities be transferred to SRCC LLC from VCMWD.

The tentative Order, if adopted, would transfer the WDRs for the SRCC wastewater treatment and disposal facilities to SRCC LLC as well as update discharge requirements and provisions and the monitoring and reporting program. The WDRs contained in tentative Order No. R9-2005-0258 for the discharge of treated wastewater to land are based principally on the Basin Plan.

To date, comments on the tentative Order have been received from VCMWD (see Supporting Document 4). Staff will provide copies of any additional written comments received along with responses to comments and errata, if needed, to the Regional Board prior to the November 9 meeting.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES: Tentative Order No. R9-2005-0258 includes updated findings and requirements. The following areas in the tentative Order differ from the existing Order:

1. The SRCC LLC is named as the Discharger and not VCMWD.
2. Findings that describe the ownership arrangement of the SRCC and the wastewater treatment and disposal facilities are included.
3. Findings that describe the new membrane bioreactor treatment system which replaced the old SRCC wastewater treatment system are included.
4. New or updated effluent discharge specifications for total dissolve solids, chloride, sulfate, adjusted sodium ratio, total nitrogen, iron, manganese, methylene blue active substances, boron, and fluoride are included.

5. Requirements to develop a groundwater monitoring plan and requirements for groundwater monitoring from three monitoring wells to assess impacts, if any, to the receiving groundwater from the discharge are included.
6. Requirements to monitor surface waters in Paradise Creek to assess impacts, if any, to the creek from the discharge have been added.
7. Facility specifications that require vegetation in the spray disposal field have a nitrogen demand of at least 100 lbs per year per acre and maintenance specifications that require periodic removal of vegetation to ensure that total nitrogen discharge to land will not cause an exceedance of the groundwater objective for nitrates have been added.
8. A requirement to report that operators who operate and maintain the SRCC wastewater treatment and disposal facilities and their qualifications ensure that the facilities are properly operated and maintained is included.

COMPLIANCE:

The SRCC wastewater treatment facilities and the discharge from these facilities have generally been in compliance with the requirements of existing Order No. 93-29 with the following exceptions:

For several monitoring periods from January 2001 through June 2004, the boron concentration of the effluent from SRCC had exceeded the effluent discharge specification of 0.5 mg/L. During the July-December 2004 and January-June 2005 monitoring periods, the effluent has been in compliance.

The Regional Board received complaints that wastewater from the spray disposal field had run off to property not owned by VCMWD in April, June and July 2001 because of failures in the irrigation system. VCMWD made the necessary repairs to the system, and no additional complaints have been received since those repairs were completed.

LEGAL CONCERNS:

None.

SUPPORTING DOCS:

1. Site Map.
2. Transmittal letter dated October 14, 2005.
3. Tentative Order No. R9-2005-0258 including a Monitoring and Reporting Program.
4. Comment letter from Valley Center Municipal Water District.

RECOMMENDATION:

The adoption of tentative Order No. R9-2005-0258 is recommended.